

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

FARM ADVISER

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NOTICE

The purpose of the Farm Adviser is to furnish a convenient and timely medium for supplying news notes regarding the work of the Agricultural College, Experiment Station, and Extension Service, in co-operation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture to the local press and to county demonstration agents with a view to keeping them and the people throughout the State informed of the activities of these agricultural agencies in their behalf. All requests for copies of this sheet should be directed to Reuben Brigham, In Charge of Publications, The Extension Service, College Park, Maryland.

COUNTY DEMONSTRATION AGENTS
CO-OPERATE IN HOLDING FARM-
ERS' INSTITUTES ON EASTERN
SHORE

College Park, Md., Feb. 5.

During the next three weeks following an unusually successful series of meetings on the Eastern Shore, Dr. R. S. Hill, Director of Farmers' Institutes, has arranged for a full schedule in Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Queen Anne, Kent, Calvert and Anne Arundel counties. In holding these meetings he is receiving the hearty co-operation of the local county demonstration agents who are bringing many neighborhoods somewhat new to the institute under its educative influences. Dr. Hill has provided an unusually strong program for his institutes, seeking in so far as is possible to respond through them to the interests of the

locality in which the meeting is being held. He has found the local county demonstration agent a valuable aid in arousing interest in the institutes and in helping the farmer realize on the teachings of his lecturers. The following schedule has been arranged for during the balance of February:

Monday 7, McDaniel; Tuesday 8, Easton and Preston; Wednesday 9, Trappe and Hebron; Thursday 10, Cordova and Wye Mills; Friday 11, Saturday 12, Ridgely and Denton; Monday 14, Vienna and Hurlock; Tuesday 15, Cambridge and Cornersville; Wednesday 16, East New Market and Linkwood; Thursday 17, Massey; Thursday 17 and Friday 18, Sudlersville; Friday 18 and Saturday 19, Price; Monday 21, Stevensville; Monday 21 and Tuesday 22, Centerville; Wednesday 23, Chestertown and Galena; Thursday 24, Cecilton; Friday 25, Chesapeake City; Monday 28, Millersville; Tuesday 29, Owensville.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY GRANGE HEARS DISCUSSION OF COUNTY AGENT WORK

College Park, Md., Feb. 4.

An interesting feature of the recent meeting of the Montgomery County Pomona Grange at Highland was an address on the ideals and purpose of the county agent movement by F. J. Van Hoesen, recently appointed County Demonstration Agent for Montgomery county. He stated that a County Agent is neither a farm adviser, an experimenter, nor an expert or specialist. "The County Agent," he asserted, "is not a farm adviser, because more advice is too likely to be a product of the imagination rather than of experience and a product of varying quality. Instead of giving advice to the farmer,

he prefers to counsel with him. He is not an experimenter because we experiment with theories, while we demonstrate facts. The farmer who seeks a profit from his labor and his acres has neither the time, the money, nor the expert knowledge to successfully conduct experimental work. This is the work of the Experiment Station and its force of specialists. And the County Agent is not an expert, because his duties are extensive rather than intensive. He is supposed to have a working knowledge of many lines rather than expert knowledge along any particular line. About the only thing in which he is supposed to be an expert is his ability to find just the expert needed and get him on the job."

In outlining what a County Agent is and what he is supposed to do, Mr. Van Hoesen said: "The County Agent is a co-operator with the farmer in solving his farm problems. He is not an outsider coming into community with an axe to grind, a scheme to promote, or with any ulterior object whatever to accomplish. He is strictly an outsider, seeking only the advancement of the agricultural interests of the community in general, and of the individual farmer in particular.

The County Agent is an organization booster, working in harmony with the leaders of agricultural thought who are today emphasizing rural improvement rather than merely improved crop production. He stands always ready to co-operate with every organization having for its object the betterment of country conditions and the enrichment of country life. The country problem is first of all a social problem, and the County Agent is an active factor in its solution.

The efficiency of the County Agent

is particularly noticeable in his demonstration work. This work is but the practical application on the farm of the results of the successful experiments conducted at the Experiment Station. The County Agent is the medium between the Co-operative Extension Service of the Agricultural College and the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the farmer. Thus when it was demonstrated to Wisconsin farmers that the formalin treatment for oat smut would control the disease, they used the treatment and saved \$8,000,000 for themselves. Wheat demonstrations in Maryland in 1915 beat the average yield by seven and one-half bushels per acre. Had all the wheat grown given this increased yield, Maryland would have had five million more bushels to sell. In a similar way the County Agent with the help of the Co-operative Extension Service demonstrates improved methods in crop rotation, growing hay, oats, and corn, handling dairy and poultry work, managing home orchards and gardens, organizing Boys' Agricultural Clubs, arousing interest among our boys in farm industries, etc.

**PLANNING THE HOME GROUNDS
IS DISCUSSED**

College Park, Md., Jan. 20.

A series of lectures are being given community and garden clubs by Prof. B. W. Anspon, of the Maryland Agricultural College, during the winter and early spring. One of these held under the auspices of the Green Spring Valley Garden Club was unusually well attended.

During the lecture various points pertaining to the culture of shrubs, also the control of insects and diseases affecting them were discussed. Some of the common errors in pruning shrubs come about due to the lack of knowledge as to their flowering habits. Shrubs are divided into two groups according to their flowering habits; first, those producing flowers on wood of the previous season; and second, those producing

their flowers on wood of the current season. The former should be pruned during the growing season after the flowers have faded. This is done in order to induce the formation of new flowering wood for the next season.

Where the plants have grown out of bounds, the twigs may be cut back, providing we allow enough buds on the shoots for the next year. In some cases it is a good plan to cut down the shrubs severely after flowering so as to secure a new growth. These will then produce flowers for the succeeding year. After this severe pruning, summer pruning will be all that is necessary for the following years. Severe pruning during the dormant season of the first group will practically destroy the flowers the next year. Those that produce flowers on the current season growth may be pruned during the dormant season. These can be cut back considerably and still will produce good flowers.

Among the first group are lilacs, viburnums, Japanese quince, rhododendrons, azaleas, spireas, etc., etc. Among the second group are those flowering on the current season's growth, such as althea, hydrangea, hypericum, amorphia, roses, etc.

**SHORT COURSE IN FARM LIVE STOCK
OPENS**

College Park, Md., Feb. 7.

Following the two-weeks' short course in fruit and truck growing, the short course in farm live stock and dairying opened today with lectures on the breeding and handling of horses for farm and city use. Particular interest was shown by students in attendance in the discussion of breeding army remounts on Maryland farms. In view of the increasing demand for well bred horses for war services, many farmers will undoubtedly turn their serious attention toward meeting the demands of this trade. The schedule for the first two weeks is as follows:

Monday, February 7.
9:00-10:30 A. M.—Examination of Animals for Soundness.
Dr. S. S. Buckley, Md. Agr'l College.
10:30-12:00 M.—Breeds of Horses.
Prof. R. H. Ruffner, Md. Agr'l College.
1:00-2:30 P. M.—Breeding Army Remounts on Maryland Farms.
Mr. G. A. Bell, Animal Husbandman, U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry.
2:30-4:00 P. M.—Judging Horses.
Prof. Ruffner.

Tuesday, February 8.
9:00-10:30 A. M.—Breeds of Horses (concluded).
Prof. Ruffner.
Mr. A. C. Stanton, Md. Agr'l College.
1:00-2:30 P. M.—The Relation Between Form and Function of Animals.
Prof. W. T. L. Taliaferro, Md. Agr'l College.
2:30-4:00 P. M.—Principles of Breeding.
Prof. Ruffner.

Wednesday, February 9.
9:00-10:30 A. M.—Principles of Breeding (continued).
Prof. Ruffner.
10:30-12:00 M.—Indications of Diseases in Animals.
Dr. Buckley.
1:00-2:30 P. M.—Principles of Breeding (concluded).
Prof. Ruffner.
2:30-4:00 P. M.—A Review of the Work of the Agricultural College and Experiment Station in Animal Husbandry.
President H. J. Patterson, Md. Agr'l College.

Thursday, February 10.
9:00-10:30 A. M.—Feeding Farm Animals.
Prof. Ruffner.
10:30-12:00 M.—Diseases of Horses.
Dr. Buckley.
1:00-4:00 P. M.—Beef Slaughtering Demonstration.
Mr. R. S. Allen, Md. Agr'l Exp. Sta.

Friday, February 11.
9:00-10:30 A. M.—Breeds of Beef Cattle.
Profs. Taliaferro and Ruffner.
10:30-12:00 M.—Cutting Up Beef for Domestic Use.
Mr. Allen.
1:00-2:30 P. M.—Diseases of Cattle.
Dr. Buckley.

2:30-4:00 P. M.—Construction of Silos.
Mr. G. E. Wolcott, Md. Agr'l Exp. Sta.

Saturday, February 12.
9:00-12:00 M.—Excursion by Trolley to Government Breeding Farm at Beltsville, Md.

Monday, February 14.
9:00-10:30 A. M.—Types and Breeds of Sheep.
Prof. Ruffner.

10:30-12:00 M.—Care and Management of Sheep.
Mr. Reuben Brigham, Md. Agr'l College

1:00-2:30 P. M.—The Farm Flock: Its Importance in Maryland Farm Economy.
Mr. F. R. Marshall, Animal Husbandman, U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry.

2:30-4:00 P. M.—Sheep Feeds and Feeding.
Prof. Ruffner.

Tuesday, February 15.
9:00-10:30 A. M.—Diseases of Sheep.
Dr. Buckley.

10:30-12:00 M.—Slaughtering for Home Use.
Mr. Allen.

1:00-2:30 P. M.—Hothouse Lambs.
Mr. T. Roy Brooks, Emmorton, Md.

2:30-4:00 P. M.—Slaughtering Demonstration.
Mr. Brooks.

Wednesday, February 16.
9:00-10:30 A. M.—Types and Breeds of Hogs.
Prof. Ruffner.

10:30-12:00 M.—Feeding Farm Animals.
Mr. Stanton.

1:00-2:30 P. M.—Diseases of Hogs.
Dr. Buckley.

2:30-4:00 P. M.—Demonstration for Serum Treatment of Hog Cholera.
Dr. Buckley.

Thursday, February 17.
9:00-10:00 A. M.—Hog House Construction.
Dr. Buckley.

10:00-11:00 A. M.—Forage Crops for Swine.
Mr. N. Schmitz, Md. Agr'l Exp. Sta.

11:00-12:00 M.—Feeding the Herd.
Mr. Stanton.

1:00-2:30 P. M.—General Management of Swine.
Prof. Ruffner.

2:30-4:00 P. M.—Slaughtering and Notes.
Mr. Allen.

Friday, February 18.
9:00-10:30 A. M.—Cutting and Curing Demonstration.
Mr. Allen.

10:30-12:00 M.—The Swine Industry of Maryland.
Prof. Ruffner.

1:00-2:30 P. M.—Handling Pork Products.
Dr. Buckley.

2:30-4:00 P. M.—Special Problems in Swine Husbandry.
Prof. Ruffner.

Saturday, February 19.
General Review and Examinations.

